

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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26. (new): A method of using a computer to conduct transactions between users and originators comprising the steps of:

- (a) inputting into the computer a non-confidential, searchable basic description of a user's unmet need or unsolved problem, each basic description including a corresponding, confidential, separately accessible detailed description;
- (b) permitting originators to access, search, review and select without restriction, only the non-confidential basic descriptions;
- (c) providing selecting originators an option to further explore the subject matter of a selected basic description by agreeing to a license agreement including a confidentiality provision;
- (d) inputting into the computer an acceptance of the license agreement by the selecting originators; and
- (e) upon receipt of the acceptance of the agreement by the selecting originators, providing the accepting originators with access on a confidential basis via the computer to the confidential detailed descriptions corresponding to the selected basic descriptions.

27. (new): A method according to claim 26 wherein the license agreement is a limited duration, exclusive license and including the further step of:

upon receipt of acceptance of the agreement by one selecting originator, subsequently restricting other originators from, accessing, searching, reviewing and selecting the non-confidential basic description and the corresponding, confidential detailed description previously selected by the one selecting originator for the duration of the exclusive license agreement.

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28. (new): A method according to claim 27 including the further step of:

providing users with the licensing option of permitting originators to continue to access, search, review and select only the non-confidential basic descriptions for the duration of the license agreement.

29. (new): A method according to claim 28 including the further step of:

maintaining a queue of license-accepting originators seeking access to the selected, but license restricted detailed descriptions.

30. (new): A method according of claim 29 including the further step of:

establishing a priority for each originator in the queue according to the timing of license acceptance by each originator, with the earlier in time having priority over the later in time.

31. (new): A method according to claim 26 including the further step of:

B1 permitting originators to search and rank by relevancy, without restriction, the detailed descriptions but, prior to accepting the terms of the license agreement, to access and view only the basic descriptions corresponding to the ranked detailed descriptions.

32. (new): A method according to claim 26 including the further step of allowing a selected corresponding detailed description to be accessed by an accepting originator only after the description inputting user has approved access.

33. (new): A method according to claim 26 including the further step of allowing only a specified user to access the corresponding detailed description.

34. (new): A method of using a computer to conduct transactions between originators and users comprising the steps of:

(a) inputting into the computer a non-confidential, searchable basic description of an originator's proposal, each basic description including a corresponding, confidential, separately accessible, detailed description;

(b) permitting users to access, search, review, and select without restriction, only the non-confidential, accessible basic descriptions;

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(c) providing selecting users an option to further explore the subject matter of the selected basic description by agreeing to a license agreement including a confidentiality provision;

(d) inputting into the computer an acceptance of the license agreement by the selecting users; and

(e) upon receipt of the acceptance of the agreement by the selecting users, providing the accepting users with access on a confidential basis via the computer to the confidential detailed descriptions corresponding to the selected basic descriptions.

35. (new) : A method according to claim 34 wherein the originator's proposal is submitted by an originator in response to a user's unmet need or unsolved problem defined by the user, inputted by the user and accessed by the originator pursuant to a license agreement.

36. (new) : A method according to claim 34 wherein the license agreement is a limited duration, exclusive license and including the further step of:

upon receipt of acceptance of the agreement by one selecting user, subsequently restricting, other users from, accessing, searching, reviewing or selecting the non-confidential basic description and the corresponding, confidential detailed description previously selected by the one selecting user for the duration of the exclusive license agreement.

37. (new) : A method according to claim 36 including the further step of:

providing originators with the licensing option of permitting users to continue to access, search, review and select only the non-confidential basic descriptions for the duration of the license agreement.

38. (new): A method according to claim 37 including the further step of:

maintaining a queue of license-accepting users seeking access to the selected, but license restricted confidential detailed descriptions.

39. (new): A method according to claim 38 including the further step of:

establishing a priority for each user in the queue according to the timing of license acceptance, with the earlier in time having priority over the later in time.

40. (new): A method according to claim 34 including the further step of:

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permitting users to search and rank by relevancy, without restriction, the detailed descriptions but, prior to accepting the terms of the license agreement, to access and view only the basic descriptions corresponding to the ranked detailed descriptions.

41. (new): A method according to claim 34 including the further step of allowing a selected corresponding detailed description to be accessed by an accepting user only after the description inputting originator has approved access.

42. (new) : A method according to claim 34 including the further step of allowing the corresponding detailed description to be accessed by only one selecting user at a time.

43. (new) : An apparatus to facilitate transactions between users and originators comprising:

(a) a computer including a processor and a storage device, wherein a computer program causes the computer

(b) to store using the storage device non-confidential, searchable basic descriptions of users' unmet needs or unsolved problems, each basic description including a corresponding, confidential, separately accessible detailed description;

(c) to allow originators to access, search, review, and select without restriction, only the non-confidential, basic descriptions;

(d) to provide selecting originators an option to further explore the subject matter of a selected basic description by agreeing to a license agreement including a confidentiality provision;

(e) registering acceptance of the license agreement by the selecting originators; and

(f) upon receipt of acceptance of the agreement by the selecting originators, to provide the accepting originators with access on a confidential basis via the computer to the confidential detailed descriptions corresponding to the selected basic descriptions.

44. (new): An apparatus according to claim 43 wherein the license agreement is a limited duration, exclusive license and wherein the computer program upon receipt of acceptance of the agreement by one selecting originator:

subsequently restricts other originators from accessing, searching, reviewing or selecting the non-confidential basic description and the corresponding, confidential detailed description previously selected by the one selecting originator for the duration of the exclusive license agreement.

45. (new): An apparatus according to claim 44 wherein the computer program allows the user the option of permitting originators to continue to access, search, review and select only the non-confidential basic description for the duration of the license agreement.

46. (new): An apparatus according to claim 45 wherein the computer program maintains a queue of license-accepting originators seeking access to the selected, but license restricted detailed descriptions.

47. (new): An apparatus according to claim 46 wherein the computer program establishes priority for each originator in the queue according to the timing of license acceptance by each originator, with the earlier in time having priority over the later in time.

48. (new): An apparatus according to claim 43 wherein the computer program permits originators to search and rank by relevancy, without restriction, the detailed descriptions but, prior to accepting the terms of the license agreement, to access and view only the basic descriptions corresponding to the ranked detailed descriptions.

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49. (new): An apparatus according to claim 43 wherein the computer program allows a selected corresponding detailed description to be accessed by an accepting originator only after the description inputting user has approved access.

50. (new): An apparatus according to claim 43 wherein the computer program allows the corresponding detailed description to be accessed only by at least one intended and specified originator.

51. (new): An apparatus to facilitate transactions between originators and users comprising:

(a) a computer including a processor and a storage device, wherein a computer program causes the computer

(b) to store using the storage device non-confidential, searchable basic descriptions of originators' proposals, each basic description including a corresponding, confidential separately accessible detailed description;

(c) to allow users to access, search, review and select, without restriction, only the non-confidential, accessible basic descriptions;

(d) to allow selecting users an option to further explore the subject matter of a selected basic description by agreeing to a license agreement including a confidentiality provision;

(e) registering acceptance of the license agreement by the selecting users; and

(f) upon receipt of acceptance of the agreement by the selecting users, to allow the accepting users access on a confidential basis via the computer to the confidential detailed description corresponding to the selected basic description.

52. (new): An apparatus according to claim 51 wherein the license agreement is a limited duration, exclusive license and wherein, upon receipt of acceptance of the agreement by one selecting user, the computer program subsequently restricts other users from accessing, searching, reviewing or selecting the non-confidential basic description and the corresponding, confidential detailed description for the duration of the exclusive license agreement.

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53. (new): An apparatus according to claim 52 wherein the computer program provides the originator the licensing option of permitting users to continue to access, search, review and select only the non-confidential basic descriptions for the duration of the license agreement.

54. (new): An apparatus according to claim 53 wherein the computer program maintains a queue of license-accepting users seeking access to the selected, but license restricted confidential detailed descriptions.

55. (new): An apparatus according to claim 54 wherein the computer program establishes a priority for each user in the queue according to the timing of license acceptance, with the earlier in time having priority over the later in time.

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56. (new): An apparatus according to claim 51 wherein the computer program permits users to search and rank by relevancy, without restriction, the detailed descriptions but prior to accepting the terms of the license agreement, to access and view only the basic descriptions corresponding to the ranked detailed descriptions.

57. (new): An apparatus according to claim 51 wherein the computer program allows a selected corresponding detailed description to be accessed by an accepting user only after the inputting originator has approved access.

58. (new): An apparatus according to claim 51 wherein the computer program allows each corresponding detailed description to be accessed by only one selecting user at a time.